OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY 2001 ANNUAL GANG CASES REPORT

INCLUDING
THE GANG UNIT
THE REGIONAL GANG ENFORCEMENT TEAM
(RGET)
& THE TRI-AGENCY RESOURCE GANG ENFORCEMENT TEAMS
(TARGET)



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Scope of Gang-Involved Crime in 2001

- At the end of 2001, there were 689 fewer gang members and 10 fewer gangs than at the end of 2000. The total number of gang members was 17,306 at the end of 2001.
- There were 18 gang-related homicides in Orange County in 2001. This is a 55% decrease from 1997, but a small increase from 2000.

Anti-Gang Prosecution Efforts in General

- Criminal charges were filed against 1,445 gang-involved defendants in 2001, with most violent offenses decreasing.
- The District Attorney's Gang Unit, Tri-Agency Resources, Gang Enforcement Team (TARGET), and Juvenile Unit attorneys conducted 58 trials of gang members, with an 88% conviction rate.
- 211 gang members were committed to state prison; and 28 others were sent to the California Youth Authority.

The Regional Gang Enforcement Team

- During 2001, the Team made 44 arrests, and seized large quantities of narcotics, weapons, and cash.
- The Team devoted 4,467 hours in direct support of other law enforcement agencies, including the DEA, FBI, ATF and US Customs.

TARGET Program Prosecution Efforts

- There were 1,242 targeted gang members at year end; an increase of 15% over 2000.
- There were 577 arrests of targeted gang members in 2001, and 1,645 arrests of gang associates.
- TARGET teams have seized 1,088 firearms from gang members in the past 5 years.
- TARGET deputy district attorneys filed cases against 493 targeted gang members and 91 codefendants during 2001; 77% of defendants were kept in custody and off the streets throughout the prosecution process.
- There were 163 commitments of targeted gang members to state prison or the California Youth Authority in 2000, and 292 additional local commitments.
- The average probation caseload of all teams was 289 targeted gang members and 290 "nontargeted" gang members, with over 73% on formal "gang terms."
- There were 1,253 probation searches of and 289 probation violation filings against "targets."

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A letter from the Orange County District Attorney

I am happy to report that Orange County law enforcement remains a national leader in the suppression, investigation, and prosecution of criminal street gang violence. Deputy District Attorneys in my office share with me that our sister counties throughout California, as well as other cities throughout the United States, view Orange County as a model for programs that successfully attack and root out gang activity within the community.

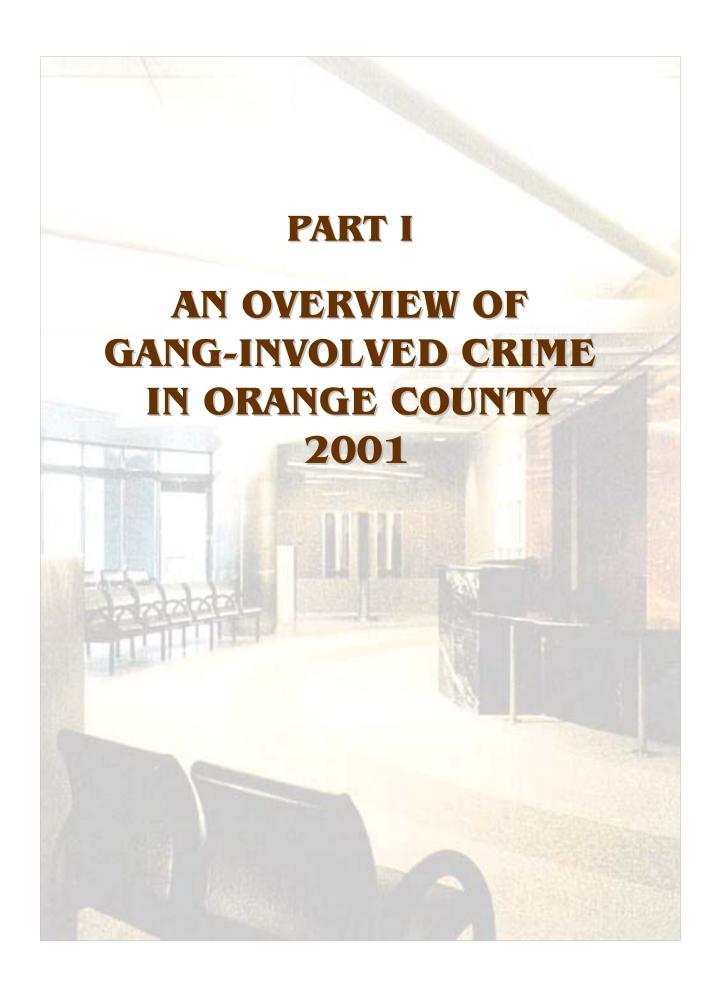
Once again, I am pleased to announce that our county has realized gains in the fight against gang crime as a result of the continued collaboration among federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies. The gang homicide rate remains drastically lower than it was just six years ago. Documented active gang members at the end of 2001 were 13% fewer than in 1998. In 2001, 768 gang members were removed from the street and incarcerated in state prison, the California Youth Authority or local custodial facilities. In this year, 208 gang guns were seized and taken off the streets.

Street gang activity disenfranchises our citizens of their basic right to live in their community free from the fear of becoming a victim of gang intimidation or violence. For this reason, I will continue to direct all necessary resources to stop gang activity cold in its tracks. We must show our youth in clear terms that participation in gangs is a dead-end street. To that end, our resources will be devoted at our youth in programs of proactive prevention as well in holding youthful offenders strictly accountable for gang violence. Our united law enforcement front must make the message clear to those attracted to the gang life: either stay away from gangs and grow and prosper, or join a gang and grow up in prison.

Where our youth has chosen to live the gang life, our local police and prosecutors have stepped up to hold violations accountable. A few examples of many notable prosecutions in 2001 are the following. A gang member was convicted of street robbery and special circumstance murder and attempted murder and was sentenced to death for these crimes. An 18-year-old hardcore leader of a gang was convicted of five attempted murders and gang related violations, and sentenced to 119 years-to-life in prison. An entrenched gang member was convicted for nearly murdering a 23-year-old young man and 14-year-old girl during a drive-by shooting and is now serving a 40 years-to-life prison sentence.

Combating gang activity still must remain the highest priority for law enforcement and for public and private agencies that work in partnership with police. As a result of meeting with thousands of law-abiding residents of the community since my tenure as your District Attorney, I am acutely aware that fighting street gangs is one of the public's foremost priorities. Ever mindful of the disintegration and destruction that gang violence causes, I pledge to all citizens to continue to attack aggressively all gang activity whenever and wherever it raises its ugly head, in order to obtain the goal of eliminating street gang violence altogether.

Tony Rackauckas
Orange County District Attorney



SCOPE OF THE GANG PROBLEM

This report is the latest in a series of annual reports that attempts to summarize the efforts of the Office of the District Attorney, often in collaboration with other agencies, in combating gang crime in Orange County. The numbers displayed and stories described in this report indicate as it has for several years, that progress continues to be made, but also that much work remains. The 2001 Orange County annual survey conducted by the University of California Irvine noted that crime was a serious concern of Orange County residents. The state attorney general recently reported that

violent crime is not decreasing as it had been, and that some increases are appearing. The number of gang members in Orange County remains large, and tens of thousands of county residents continue to be significantly impacted by gang presence and activities.

This report is designed to present a picture of the scope of gang crime in Orange County, and the level of effort by the Orange County District Attorney's Office, acting in concert with law enforcement agencies and the Orange County Probation Department, in combating this problem during calendar year 2001. The information is presented in both narrative and statistical formats, based on data generated by collaborative law enforcement efforts. The statistical and narrative information is



presented in such a way as to provide a framework for understanding the level of effort among the multi-disciplinary teams involved in reducing gang crime in Orange County. Five years of data are displayed to show recent crime trends.

The scope of the gang problem in Orange County is too complex to be completely described by citing statistical summaries and trends, or by providing brief narrative descriptions. The devotion of substantial resources by police agencies, the Probation Department, and the District Attorney's Office continues to lead to the removal of many violent gang leaders from the streets. Several statistics indicate that, in general, gang crime has been dramatically reduced. General rates of some reported crime categories have declined. Many of the trends in this report show declining numbers. This indicates that many of the most active gang criminals have been removed from the streets.

Amid these successes, challenges remain: the statistics also indicate that there are still substantial numbers of gang members active in Orange County. Some of the most vicious gang leaders removed in earlier years could be returning from prison in the next few years. There are still too many neighborhoods pervaded by fear of gangs. Some of the remaining gang members seem to be becoming more heavily armed and are increasingly striking outside their neighborhoods. This combination of mobility and lethality supports the need to continue to devote substantial resources to combat gang crime.



According to the State Department of Justice Crime Index figures (preliminary 2001 report), the total number of all reported crimes (including gang crime) in seven categories (homicide, rape, assault, robbery, burglary, auto theft, arson) rose nearly 6% in 2002. A number of other reports indicate that declining crime trends may have ceased. Our own tabulation of gang-related homicides in the county rose slightly in 2001 to 18, up from 16 the year before. This is still just a fourth of the peak number of 72 in 1994. District Attorney gang-member defendant filings dropped again, but homicide filings increased and "Other Violent Offenses" decreased much less than nonviolent offense filings did.

¹ It must be noted that changes continue to occur in how numerical data are collected. Data are collected from many agencies outside the District Attorney's Office, and the authors of this report are not always aware of changes in collection or reporting procedures. Different persons gather and report the data at different times during the year. Changes in personnel often lead to changes in program emphases. For these reasons, comparisons between this year's statistics and those of other years should be made with caution.

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There are other areas that add to this mixed picture. The CalGangs System database added almost five new gang members each day. These gang members replace some of those who are no longer active or who have been imprisoned through effective prosecution efforts. The Gang Incident Tracking System recorded 2,000 incidents with non-gang victims. Gang members coming from other jurisdictions to commit crimes in Orange County continued to attract special attention in 2001.

A worsening economy leads to increased needs by many individuals, some of whom will find gang activities a way of filling these needs. Drug dealing seems to be becoming an increasingly important revenue generator for gangs. A grant that combats gang crime through focusing on drug money laundering is one of the responses by the Office of the District Attorney to this increasingly important aspect of gang crime.

Finally, it must be reiterated that the efforts of Orange County's criminal justice agencies to combat gang-motivated crime have been substantial. Every local police department has a special unit devoted to anti-gang efforts. Twelve of these departments work directly with prosecutors and probation officers in the Tri-Agency Resource, Gang Enforcement Team (TARGET) program.

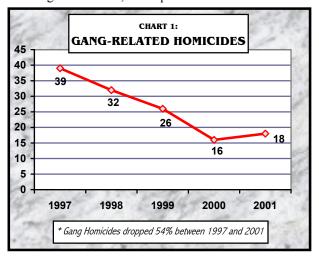
The numbers reported below include gang cases prosecuted by the District Attorney Gang unit, the TARGET Unit (see Part IV), the Regional Gang Enforcement Team (RGET – see Part II), the District Attorney's Juvenile Unit, and regular felony prosecution units in the branch courts. The number of filings by the Gang Unit and the other specialized antigang programs mentioned here remained at essentially the same level, or show slight increases.

Cases reported by the Juvenile Unit and by regular felony unit deputies can be designated as being "gang-related." The criteria for marking a case as "gang-related" have changed over time, generally becoming more restrictive. *Much of the change (decrease) in total District Attorney numbers appears to have been a result of these changing criteria.*

SUMMARY OF ANTI-GANG EFFORTS

A. Key Gang Crime Indicators – the CalGang Database

During 2001, there were 1,758 new Orange County gang members added to the CalGangs database system (see page 12 for a detailed description of the system). With the purging of 2,447 gang members who were imprisoned or inactive for the past five years, that total number of identified gang members in Orange County at the end of 2001 was 17,306. Although substantial, this represents a 13.3% decrease from the end of 1998.



Twenty-two of the gangs operating in Orange County in 2000 were eliminated during 2001. Unfortunately, 12 new gangs were identified during the year. This means that there were 357 identified gangs operating in Orange County at the end of 2001.

Probably the most significant effect of the additional resources devoted to combating gang activities is the substantial drop in reported gang-related homicides, as displayed in the accompanying chart. Homicides reported as "gang-related" peaked at 74 in 1994, when some of the special anti-gang efforts began in earnest. After dropping steadily since 1994, the number of homicides labeled as "gang-related" increased slightly in 2001. This is another indication of the need for continued focus of efforts and resources in combating gang crime.

These key indicators effectively summarize the many other numbers described in this report: they reflect the real progress that has been made with the devotion of extra resources to combating gang crime and the collaborative efforts of local police agencies, the District Attorney's office, the Courts, and the Probation Department. They also demonstrate the need to continue to devote extra resources in this area.

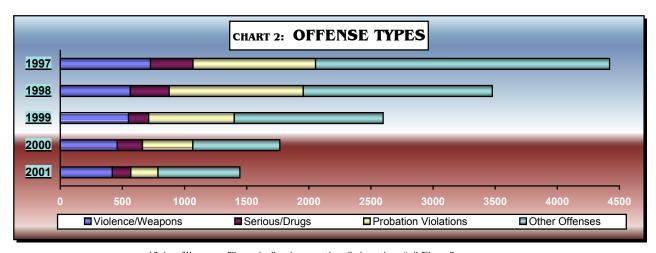
B. Findings for 1994-2000 Gang Related Crimes – the District Attorney's Office

In 2001, there were 1,445 filings of criminal charges against gang members. STEP (Street Terrorism Enforcement and Prevention) Act charges and/or enhancements were included in nearly all cases (see Table 1). Changes in data reporting processes between 1996 and 2000 make year-to-year summary comparisons difficult. All of the decrease in filings between 1998 and 1999 occurred in the "gang-related" area. Two-thirds of the decrease between 1999 and 2000 occurred in the "gang-related" area. Indications are that even aside from changes in reporting, the number of filings in 2000 continues a decline that began in 1998.

TABLE 1 Office-wide Defendant Filings by Offense/Action Category 1997-2001							
	1997	1998	1999	2000*	2001	% Change 2000-2001	% Change 1997-2001
Homicide Other Violent Offenses (1)	51 490	45 397	58 355	45 317	48 294	6.7% -7.3%	-5.9% -40.0%
Weapons Offenses	185	122	136	96	77	-19.8%	-58.4%
Drug Offenses	165	85	76	84	54	-35.7%	-67.3%
Other Serious Offenses (2) Vandalism	177 170	227 136	86 70	120 47	95 34	-20.8% -27.7%	-46.3% -80.0%
Probation Violations (777) Other Offenses	986 2196	1079 1386	689 1128	405 653	218 625	-46.2% -4.3%	-77.9% -71.5%
TOTAL FILINGS	4420	3477	2598	1747	1445	-17.3%	-67.3%
STEP Act (A)	404	482	588	564	629	11.5%	55.7%
STEP Act (B) (3)	1552	2139	2337	1837	1518	-17.4%	-2.2%

- * Decreases are mostly in "Gang-Related" crimes. This would have more of an effect on "Other Serious Offenses," "Probation Violations," and "Other Offenses" than on the remaining categories.
 - 1. "Other Violent Offenses" include: Attempted Homicide, Assault, Robbery and Shooting into a Dwelling.
 - 2. "Other Serious Offenses" include: Burglary and Grand Theft Auto.
 - 3. Step Act (B) includes multiple counts with same defendants.

The chart below displays the number of offenses filed by prosecutors in all sections of the District Attorney's Office against gang members in the past five years (not limited to Gang or TARGET unit prosecutors). This is a visual representation of the data in Table 1, combining some categories to simplify the display. As can be seen, the decrease in filings of crimes involving violence or weapons is much less than the decreases in other categories.



- Violent/Weapons filings declined proportionally less than "all filings."
- Probation violations continue to decrease significantly.

After seeming to be leveling off between 1998 and 1999, filings for violent/weapons offenses (including homicides) resumed a slow decline in 2000 and 2001. They are now 42% lower than in 1997. After rising substantially in 1999, homicide filings declined in 2001 to their 1998 level. In 2001 these filings rose slightly. With gang murders at a much lower level than before, old unsolved homicide cases continue to be aggressively pursued and filings of recently solved murder cases are keeping the number of homicide filings high. Filings for "serious" and drug offenses decreased in 2001 after a slight rise the year before. Both juvenile probation violation filings and "Other Offenses" again declined substantially (see Table 1 for figures).

The number of filings with STEP Act charges (A) continued to increase and is almost 56% higher than in 1997. The total number of STEP Act (B) enhancements decreased again, to about the same level as in 1997. The relatively high level of filings of enhancements continues to demonstrate the aggressive approach of the DA's Office to gang-related filings.

The Gang and TARGET units conducted 41 adult trials involving gang crimes, with an 87% conviction rate. This is just a few trials less than in 2000, but continues the downward trend. Gang trials are very complex, difficult, and are often lengthy. Witnesses are reluctant to testify and gang members often try to shift responsibility, shade the truth by denying any knowledge of the incident, or fail to cooperate in any sense. The DA's Office has aggressively pursued even the most difficult cases. Achievement of over an 85% conviction rate is an excellent record and continues to reflect of dedication and professionalism of those in law enforcement, those in probation supervision, and the prosecutors and District Attorney investigators working gang cases.

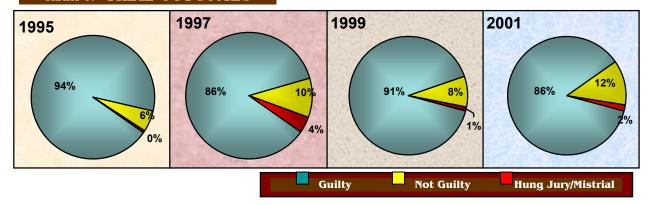
Defendants entered an additional 810 guilty pleas, yet another substantial drop from previous years. Again, most of this decline has occurred in the area of "gang-related" cases, suggesting that reporting changes are the reason for most of the decline. This decline reflects fewer cases, not a decline in conviction rate. The workload of the Gang Unit and special anti-gang programs (TARGET and RGET) has not changed. The conviction level of these units has remained high through the years.

TABLE 2 Office-wide Case Event Information 1997-2001							
	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	% Change 2000-2001	% Change 1997-2001
Adult Trials % Guilty (1)	98 90.9%	52 100.0%	48 91.3%	45 93.3%	41 87.2%	-8.9%	-58.2%
Pleas (2)	3545	2237	1777	1216	810	-33.4%	-77.2%
"707" Fitness Hearings ⁽³⁾	64	68	51	21	31	47.6%	-51.6%
Preliminary Hearings	228	242	225	182	184	1.1%	-19.3%

- (1) Since mistrials and trials with hung juries can be retried, they are omitted in calculating "% Guilty."
- (2) Pleas are determined by subtracting the number of trials from the total number sentenced.
- (3) "707" fitness hearings determine if a juvenile should be prosecuted in adult court.

The number of Welfare and Institutions code section "707" Petitions filed (where, due to the seriousness of the charges, a request is made to try a juvenile in adult court) jumped from its low level in 2000, although it was still far below previous years. This jump reflects the cessation of direct filing for most of 2001, as the courts studied the constitutionality of this issue. The number of preliminary hearings was essentially the same as the previous year, which was a new low.

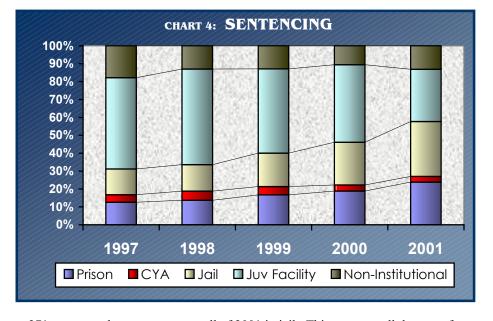
CHART 3: TRIAL OUTCOMES



- Over the six-year period, almost 90% of all Gang and TARGET Unit trials concluded with guilty verdicts
- Note that the charts above include hung juries and mistrials, so percentages will differ from those in Table 2.

The number of gang members sentenced to state prison in 2001 was 211, continuing the decline in numbers since 1997. However, the proportion of all sentences that was to state prison continued to rise. The number of California Youth Authority (CYA) commitments again declined substantially and the proportion of all sentences that involves CYA has declined as well. Another 239 active gang members were removed from the streets and sent to a state facility in 2001.

- 87% of those prosecuted for gang crimes were sentenced to custody in 2001, an increase from 1997 and about the same level as 1998-2000.
- The percent of defendants sentenced to state institutions has increased from about 17% of all sentences in 1997 to about 27% of all sentences in 2001.



In addition to the state commitments, 271 gang members spent part or all of 2001 in jail. This was a small decrease from the number in 2000, but an increase in the proportion of sentences. The decrease in both number and proportion of sentences that involved time in a juvenile facility was substantial in 2001.

The total number of juvenile gang members sentenced continued its steady decline and is only a fraction of the number in 1997. However, most of this decline is a result of the more restrictive definition of "gang-related" now in use by the Juvenile Unit. Another reason for the decline may be that the incarceration of the more active and violent adult gang members has decreased the activity level of the younger gang members. The number of adult gang members sentenced has also slowly declined, with 1999-2000 seeing a larger decrease. The other decreases have been small to moderate in size.

TABLE 3 **Number of All Gang-Related Defendants Officewide by Sentence Category** 1997 - 2001 % Change % Change 1997* 1998 1999 2000 2001 2000-2001 1997-2001 **State Prison Commitments** 331 341 321 211 -14.2%246 -36.3%California Youth Authority 118 127 90 44 28 -36.4% -76.3% **County Jail** 359 412 368 311 271 -12.9%-34.2%**Local Juvenile Facility** 905 1435 1328 564 258 -54.3% -82.0% Total Juveniles Sentenced 2065 1742 1192 707 340 -51.9%-83.5%**Total Adults Sentenced** 745 731 596 544 -8.7% -31.8%

One case concluded in 2001 encapsulates many of the issues previously discussed regarding the nature of gang crime in Orange County. It is a particularly good illustration of a combination of good police work, the power of circumstantial evidence, and the fact that gang members will be prosecuted to the full extent of the law. This prosecution is true even when the victim is accidentally killed and is one of the defendant's friends.

In February 1998, a group of males left San Jose for Fullerton to join local gang operatives and perpetrate a robbery of a computer supply warehouse. The plan was well orchestrated, with the Northern California group staying at a San Gabriel Valley hotel for several days while getting information. Plans were made to have three gang members go into the warehouse while two others waited in a loading area to bring the stolen items back to the hotel. Two more gang members were to act as lookouts. All went according to plan until one of the three victims resisted. The victim was pistol-whipped by two gang members. During the beating, one of the suspects fatally shot his partner by accident. One of the suspects was caught and confessed, resulting in the arrest and prosecution of six gang members. All eventually pleaded guilty and received prison sentences.

C. Reported Gang Incidents - 1994 through 2000: GITS

The Gang Incident Tracking System (GITS) provides another perspective on changes in gang activity. While most of the data in this report involve crimes with identified perpetrators and sufficient evidence to make a criminal case, GITS is designed to record <u>any</u> incident that appears gang motivated. Since it relies on reporting by many local police agencies, there can be many changes in reporting procedures and thoroughness from year to year. <u>Comparisons of these data between years must be made with particular caution</u>. The data collection system also requires additional compilation time. At the time this report is written, 2000 is the last full year of data that have been compiled.

^{*} The figures for state prison, jail commitments, and adults sentenced in 1997 are italicized to indicate the removal of cases generated by changes in reporting procedures in order to provide more valid comparisons. The actual 1997 numbers reported are: 471 prison commitments, 905 jail commitments, and 1685 total adults sentenced (80% of adult gang related).

Between late 1995 and June 2001, a group at the University of California at Irvine organized the GITS collection. When the UC Irvine group took over GITS, they revised the data form and improved follow up on data collection. This group



did the following analyses. In July 2001, funding for the UC Irvine function stopped. Since then, the data collection was moved to the CalGangs database. Data collection is still being addressed at the writing of this report. There is no complete data for 2001, so next year's report will not include a GITS section. For this reason, the GITS descriptive information has been expanded in this summary section

1. Brief Introduction and Background

Orange County's Gang Incident Tracking System (GITS) was intended to accurately identify the extent of gang-related crime in Orange County, establish a baseline against which to identify future trends in gang-related crime, and determine regional variations in gang-related crime patterns. This information is used by Orange County law enforcement agencies to facilitate strategic planning and improve resource allocation for controlling gang activities. GITS became operative January 1, 1993, when county law enforcement agencies began reporting all gang-related incidents, based on police reports, to a centralized database. By the end of 1993, all 22 independent cities and the Sheriff Coroner's Department (which serves contract cities and unincorporated areas) had established relatively consistent internal procedures for identifying and tracking gang-related crime and were reporting to the centralized database. Training programs and a short training videotape were used to teach patrol officers countywide how to identify and report gang-related incidents. Additional training occurred during 1996 for data coders responsible for reporting such incidents to GITS.

To help avoid discrepancies between agencies, key definitions were created. A *gang* was defined based on the California Street Terrorism Enforcement and Prevention Act (CPC Section 186.22) as "...a group of three or more persons who have a common identifying sign, symbol or name, and whose members individually or collectively engage in or have engaged in a pattern of criminal activity creating an atmosphere of fear and intimidation in the community."

Gang-related crimes were defined as those where: 1) Suspect(s) are identified as gang members, or admit(s) membership in a gang; 2) A person becomes a victim due to his/her gang association; 3) A reliable informant identifies an incident as gang activity; or 4) An informant of previously untested reliability identifies an incident as gang activity, and it is corroborated by other independent information. Incidents also may be included that do not fit these criteria if there are strong indications of gang involvement (e.g., suspects display gang hand signs, or the incident fits the profile of gang incidents, such as drive-by shootings, or home invasion robberies).

2. Overview of the Complete Database

The Gang Incident Tracking System collects data on suspect and victim gang membership, date and time, location of incident, crimes involved, juvenile and adult arrest, motivating factors, drugs and alcohol, weapons, and victim/offender relationship. The original GITS reporting forms collected location from Thomas Brothers map grids, used 21 broad crime categories, and put victim information into four categories. The form was changed in 1995 to collect specific address data, and all 1994 cases were updated. In 1996 the forms were



substantially revised based upon departmental input. The first major change was to expand the crime categories to allow coders to indicate the penal codes designated on the departmental reports. This eliminated the need for coders to translate specific penal codes into the 1994/1995 crime categories, reducing error. Coders were also given the opportunity to indicate more than one crime per incident. Another major change in the data coding form was in the victim relationship category.

On the 1994-95 forms, the victim category was not reliable due overlapping meanings in the categories. The new form was modified to clear up confusion and to reflect the desire for information about gang membership and intentional victims. In 1999, the victim information was again updated. This time the OCCSA wanted information about gang-ongang crime versus gang on non-gang crime.

For reporting purposes the type of incident is categorized into three main crime types: violent, property, and other. Other includes vandalism, narcotic sales, and weapon law violations. The GITS database has the capability to analyze many different aspects of gang-related activity. The data presented in this report revolve around topics of interest established by the Orange County Chiefs' and Sheriff's Association (OCCSA).



3. General Findings for 1996-2000 Gang Related Crimes

This report represents all data entered into the Gang Incident Tracking System (GITS) by December 31, 2000. Because data forms were changed to collect information on penal codes, only incidents that contain one of the original 21 crime categories are included in the data. The use of penal codes resulted in 42 separate crime categories. Those additional categories included such crimes as: alcohol use, conspiracy, violating court orders, curfew, domestic abuse, fraud, narcotic possession and use, probation violations, receiving stolen property, school offenses, status offenses, theft, traffic violations, and trespassing. In keeping with the traditional reporting format used throughout this report, five years of data are displayed. This also avoids issues of compatibility with data collected before 1996.

TABLE 4 County-wide Gang Incident Characteristics 1996-2000					
	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
All Incidents	3384	3241	3209	3029	2649
Violent Crimes *	1815	1584	1421	1380	1285
Property Crimes **	237	207	197	153	127
Other Crimes	1332	1450	1593	1496	1237
Handgun Involved	1046	813	623	552	515
Other Firearm Involved	211	144	97	103	104
Drugs Used-Prior/During Incident	171	207	209	88	54
Drugs Used-Possession/Sale	384	382	377	201	114
Gang Member Victim***	400	260	190	180	160
Non-Gang Member Victim***	1550	1350	1100	1075	1250

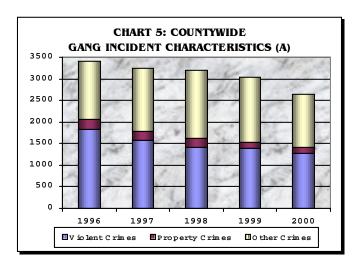
Note: The data in Table 4 were derived from data collected by the Gang Incident Tracking System (GITS). (See page 7.) These data are reported by 23 police agencies in Orange County.

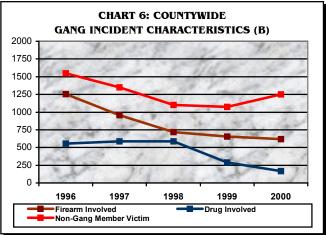
Information in the table above is displayed visually in the charts below. As shown, the overall number of reported gangrelated incidents has decreased, particularly between 1998 and 2000. However, the proportion of incidents involving violence has risen since 1998. In 1996 the percentage of incidents involving violence was 53.6%. By 1998 just 44.3% of incidents involved violence, but this rose to 48.5% in 2000. Once again, caution must be used in viewing these changes, as reporting consistency could explain the changes.

^{* &}quot;Violent Crimes" include: Homicide, Felonious Assault, Carjacking, Sexual Assault, Robbery, Kidnapping, Terrorism, Assault & Battery, Witness Intimidation, Extortion, Shooting into Dwellings/Vehicles.

^{** &}quot;Property Crimes" include: Auto Theft, Burglary, Vandalism, and Arson.

^{***} Numbers derived from percentages and totals in GITS final report.





The incident characteristics charts show that the number of incidents involving drugs remained steady for three years, then they declined to a much greater extent than the overall decrease. The decline in incidents involving firearms has been greater than the decline in all incidents.

The decline in drug-involved incidents since 1998 has been particularly great. Of concern though, is the number of incidents involving non-gang member victims. After an initial decline, these first leveled off and then rose in 2000.

Every year 1,000 to 1,500 residents of Orange County who have nothing to do with gangs have been directly involved in gang crime. Even with part of the change due to reporting issues, gang incidents have seemed to decline, and the use of drugs and firearms is less frequent.

ORANGE COUNTY'S MULTI-FACETED ANTI-CANG STRATEGY

The effort to eliminate gang-involved crime in Orange County through prevention, intervention and suppression activities involves many agencies and organizations, both public and private. While the efforts of the District Attorney's Office, the RGET, and the TARGET programs are highlighted in this report, we enthusiastically acknowledge the important contributions made by many other Orange County organizations and individuals. The Board of Supervisors has long encouraged a multi-agency, multi-faceted approach to combat gang crime. Brief descriptions of some of the major public agency programs and their role in the multi-faceted anti-gang strategy follow below.

District Attorney Gang Unit

The earliest specialized unit for prosecuting gang cases was the District Attorney's Gang Unit. It was created in 1988 to provide a vertical prosecution approach to all gang-involved, violent felony case filings. In the vertical prosecution approach, one attorney handles all aspects of a complex case, from review and filing through trial or plea to sentencing. Because of the importance placed by the Office on the eradication of gang crime, the Gang Unit continues to be supplemented with additional resources. At the present time there are 9 highly experienced attorneys handling gang cases. They are supported by 2 paralegals, a law office supervisor, 3 attorney clerks and an investigations unit consisting of a supervisor, 10 investigators and 2 assistants.

The Gang Unit now handles gang-motivated adult felony cases and serious juvenile gang cases, and files charges on all cases involving guns with gangs. The unit continues to achieve excellent results in prosecuting these extremely difficult cases.

Gang cases are difficult to prosecute because both nongang and gang-member witnesses are often reluctant to testify out of fear of retaliation, and are seldom forthright in their testimony. The Victim-Witness Services Team gives the prosecutors valuable assistance. Also, many of the cases involve multiple defendants and complex legal theories.

Gang Victim-Witness Services Team

The DA Gang Unit is assisted by a very unique and effective group, the Gang Victim-Witness Services team. This team, a part of Community Service Programs (CSP) Inc., consists of seven bilingual counselors who provide critical assistance both to crime victims and witnesses, and to investigators and prosecutors. Their statecertified Critical Incident Training enables them to respond to the scene of gang crime incidents. They establish relationships with witnesses and victims (particularly the relatives of homicide victims). They often assist law enforcement officers in obtaining consent to search while evidence is fresh. They maintain their relationships with victims and witnesses, directing them to available services and guiding them through the criminal justice system. Their relationship with witnesses is often the key component in getting court testimony enabling the prosecutor to secure a conviction.

The team also performs prevention activities in neighborhoods highly victimized by gangs. They make presentations to groups and even go door-to-door discussing issues such as improved lighting, security locks and other prevention issues. In recognition for their outstanding contributions in 1997 the team received the Crime Victim Service Award from US Attorney General Janet Reno for outstanding assistance to law enforcement and to victims of crime.

Orange County Chiefs and Sheriff's Association (OCCSA)

The Orange County Chiefs' of Police and Sheriff's Association formed a countywide Gang Strategy Steering Committee, and five regional subcommittees in the fall of 1992. The committee consists of all of the chiefs of police, the sheriff, the district attorney, and the chief probation officer. Its subcommittees include members from police agencies, the District Attorney's Office, the Probation Department, the educational system, private agencies, and the public.

During 2000, the OCCSA Steering Committee continued to provide countywide leadership and support to help integrate various innovative programs into an effective, cooperative, community approach to reduce gang crime. Its gang programs include: GITS, CalGangs, TARGET, Project No-Gangs, and RGET. Some of these are discussed in other sections of this report.

The CalGangs System

In December 1997, the CalGangs System was instituted to replace the GREAT system, which had been in existence since 1992. The CalGangs System is a cooperative project between California local law enforcement agencies and the California Department of Justice. It was designed and implemented as an automated computer system containing information on criminal street gangs and gang members, via a statewide network of computers linked through Internet/Intranet technologies. It provides 24-hour access to critical data on gangs, gang member activities and histories, firearms, criminal activities and histories, vehicles, and over 150 fields of information. Virtually every law enforcement agency with a computer and modem can now have access to this gang information.

The CalGangs system utilizes rigid guidelines that have to be followed before any person is labeled a "gang member." Approximately 90 percent of the current listings include persons who had admitted membership in a gang or taggercrew. Only participating law enforcement agencies can enter or retrieve information. An administrator in the District Attorney's Office controls the system.

The system is designed to periodically purge the information of individuals with no gang activity for the previous five years. In 2000, no gangs but 2,471 persons were purged from the database. In 2001, 22 gangs and 2,447 gang members were purged. With the addition of 12 new gangs and 1,758 gang members, the database at the end of 2001 held information on 17,306 gang members in 357 gangs. Less than 6% of these gang members were aged 17 or younger, about 27% were between the ages of 18 and 21, and over 66% were 22 years of age or older. Over 72% were members of gangs identified as Hispanic, close to 14% were Asian, about 10% were White, and less than 4% were Black. The CalGangs system is an investigative tool designed to assist law enforcement, and is not a public document.

Gang Incident Tracking System (GITS)

In 1992 the Orange County Chiefs' of Police and Sheriff's Association (OCCSA) established a research and documentation project known as GITS (Gang Incident Tracking System). Data collection began in 1994. The GITS database gathers information from gang-related arrest reports and criminal incident reports. Data regarding location, type of crime, victimperpetrator relationships, and the existence of drug and weapon factors, provide increased understanding of the type of criminal activity directly associated with gangs. This information system is particularly valuable, as it is the only known database in California, which records information about ALL gang-related crimes, both solved and unsolved (traditionally, police and district attorney statistics focused only on gang cases where the perpetrator had been identified or arrested).

In May 1995, the Department of Criminology, Law and Society at the University of California Irvine entered into an agreement with OCCSA to oversee and validate GITS data collection and to institute relevant research. Between the spring of 1995 and June 2001, the University of California Irvine assumed the additional responsibility of collecting and processing GITS data submitted by all 23 Orange County law enforcement agencies. UC Irvine researchers have been very diligent in encouraging data input by law enforcement agencies and in analyzing the results. More detailed information is found in the GITS section beginning on page 7.

The TARGET Program

In 1992 a new type of gang crime reduction program was created by Westminster Police Chief James Cook, when the Westminster Police Department, the District Attorney's Office and the Probation Department combined to form a Tri-Agency Resource / Gang Enforcement Team (TARGET). This innovative approach merged gang identification, enforcement, case preparation, witness support, prosecution, sentencing and probation into a single collaborative effort. The success of the initial unit led to the rapid expansion of the program. The TARGET Units handle anti-gang efforts from the point of gang member identification, investigation and arrest through the vertical prosecution of cases to final sentencing, and (when applicable) monitors the activities of probationers. Experts in the field of gang crime, using all the tools available to the different team member agencies, conduct all these efforts

The TARGET model involves police gang detectives, a gang deputy district attorney, a gang district attorney investigator, and a gang deputy probation officer. These team members are housed together at a local law enforcement facility in order to focus a highly coordinated team effort toward the gang problem in that jurisdiction.

This model promotes maximum communication and coordination between agencies. By physically locating three or more agencies in the same room, both the frequency and quality of inter-agency communication and cooperation are dramatically enhanced. The personnel assigned to the Team are able to immediately share thoughts, strategies and case information on gang-related crime without delay. Developments in the TARGET program since 1992 will be discussed in more detail in Part IV, the TARGET program history section (see page 21).

Regional Gang Enforcement Team

By May 1999, there was strong anecdotal evidence that a new breed of violent and non-territorial predatory gangs was committing an increasing amount of sophisticated and well-orchestrated gang crimes. District Attorney Tony Rackauckas decided that a more mobile, countywide effort was needed to supplement the work of the community-based TARGET program. The Bureau of Investigation in the District Attorney's Office developed the Regional Gang Enforcement Team, which began operating in October 1999.

As described in detail in Part II (page 14), the mission of RGET is to investigate and reduce crimes committed by gangs that claim financial, rather than physical territory. Homicides, murders for hire, kidnapping for ransom, home invasion robbery, and extortions are crimes focused on by RGET investigators. Team members conduct surveillances, serve warrants, develop and maintain cooperative witnesses, and engage in both traditional and non-traditional investigative techniques in cooperation with state and federal prosecutors. The Team also shares information with numerous local, state and federal agencies, coordinating or assisting in these investigations as required by mutual concerns.

An experienced Gang Unit prosecutor works with the investigation team from the inception of a case until convictions are achieved. Experienced detectives from local police agencies also joined the team in 2000. Participating agencies included the Anaheim PD, Fullerton PD, Garden Grove PD, Santa Ana PD, Westminster PD, the Orange County Sheriff's Department, and the Bureau of Narcotic Enforcement. An experienced gang Deputy Probation Officer expanded the impact of the team.

Multi-Component Grants

In addition to the other programs mentioned here, the District Attorney's Office currently is participating in three grant-funded, gang violence suppression programs administered by California's Office of Criminal Justice Planning (OCJP).

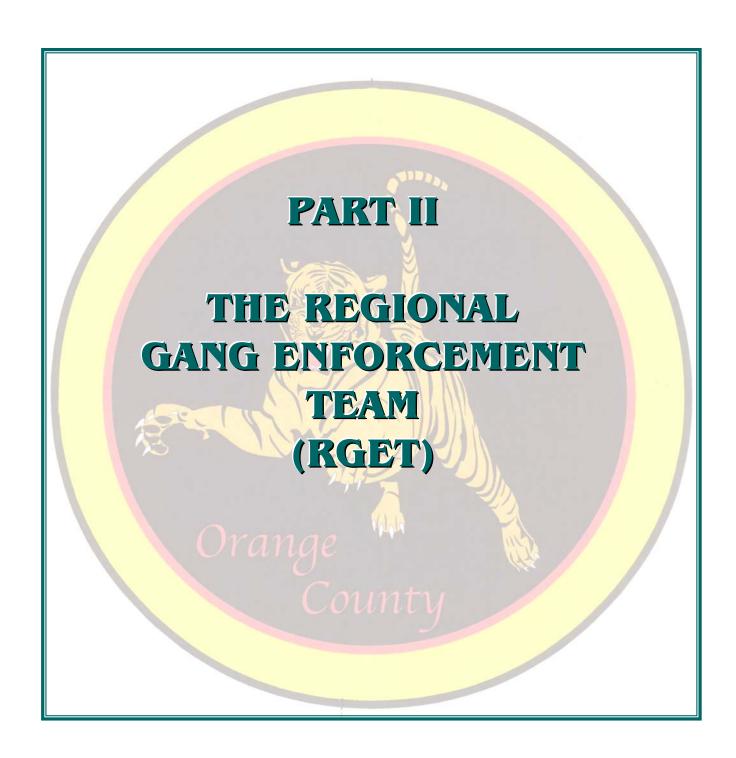
These multi-component grants involve District Attorney prosecutors and investigators working in partnership with police agencies, the Probation Department, educators and prevention-oriented, community-based organizations in the cities of Fullerton, La Habra and Santa Ana. These partnerships provide proven programs for combating gang violence. The grants run in three- year cycles and should continue through June 30, 2004.

The composition and design of these grant projects reflect recognition by local law enforcement as well as state lawmakers that collaborative efforts are the most effective means of dealing with gang violence.

Two of the grant programs also incorporate targeting principles first developed by the TARGET program in Westminster. This "target" gang suppression strategy pioneered in Orange County has now received recognition at the state level and has become a required component of certain OCJP grants.

Conclusion

These brief descriptions of the nine main facets of the county's anti-gang strategy give the reader an overview of the resources that different county agencies have devoted to reduce gang crime. They do not adequately convey the extent of the commitment of time, energy, and expertise by the hundreds of persons involved. As the numbers support, it is generally felt that substantial progress has been made, that a significant problem still exists, and that the county will continue to devote as many resources as possible to further the reduction of gang-based crime.



THE REGIONAL GANG ENFORCEMENT TEAM



The Regional Mobile Gang Enforcement Team (RGET) is a coordinated task force whose mission is to proactively investigate and reduce violent and other serious crimes committed by gang members and gangs that claim financial territory. The RGET model loosely follows the TARGET concept in some respects and deviates from it in other respects. The TARGET concept focuses on territorial gangs and youth gangs. RGET concentrates on more sophisticated gangs and hardened career criminals who are not bound by neighborhoods claimed by territorial and youth gangs. The very mobility of this category of gang makes them difficult targets for municipalities, restricted by jurisdictional boundaries. Even though RGET is not specifically directed toward Asian gangs, a large number of the cases undertaken and the support given to other law enforcement organizations have dealt with crimes committed by Asian gangs. The crimes that RGET investigates include (but are not limited to): homicide, murder for hire, extortion, kidnapping for ransom, home invasion and other robberies.

The RGET unit focuses on the investigation of these mobile gangs. Like in the TARGET model, there is much collaboration between local law enforcement agencies, DA investigators and probation officers. However, unlike the community-based TARGET program, RGET is centrally located in the county. RGET focuses on particular gangs, rather than targeting individual gang members.

To further RGET investigations, task force members conduct surveillances, serve search and arrest warrants, and engage in traditional and non-traditional investigative techniques in cooperation with state and federal prosecutors. Investigations of this type of criminal activity take patience and sophistication; the mobility of these criminals makes it difficult for

municipalities to be able to focus on them. This unit shares information regarding on-going investigations with outside agencies involving matters of mutual concern.

A District Attorney supervising investigator-in-charge oversees RGET. Two teams of investigators from participating agencies are in turn supervised by a sergeant from the Santa Ana Police Department and a special agent supervisor from the California Bureau of Narcotic Enforcement. Team members are drawn from the District Attorney's Office, Bureau of Investigation, California Bureau of Narcotic Enforcement, Federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, the Orange County Sheriff's Department, Orange County Probation Department and the Anaheim, Fullerton and Santa Ana Police Departments. A



senior deputy district attorney prosecutes cases in the California court system and coordinates prosecutions in conjunction with the United States Attorney in cases deemed appropriate for federal prosecution.

The RGET model involves investigators with considerable knowledge of local gangs, from the law enforcement agencies mentioned above, an experienced gang deputy district attorney, a veteran gang deputy probation officer, and district attorney investigators with a high level of expertise in investigating gang crime. These members are housed together at

an off-site facility in the same room, thereby promoting maximum communication and minimum delay in formulating strategies to deal with these mobile, predatory groups.

Working closely with the District Attorney's Government and Community Relations staff, RGET participated in outreach and education programs to proactively inform the public and help people to avoid situations where they may have otherwise been victimized.

During 2001, the team made 44 arrests for murder/attempt murder, home-invasion robbery, commercial robbery, possession and sales of machine guns, narcotics and other felonies relating to gang activity in Orange County. They seized large quantities of narcotics, five automatic weapons, many handguns and \$250,000 in cash. Team members devoted 4,467 hours supporting other law enforcement agencies, including DEA, FBI, ATF, and U.S. Customs.

RGET officers presented training to law enforcement officers worldwide in 2001: California Association of Criminal Analysts Quarterly Meeting [Los Angeles], International Asian Organized Crime Conference [Las Vegas], International

Narcotics Interdiction (SkyNarc) Conference [Washington, DC], National Asian Peace Officer's Training Conference [Boston], Asian Gang Investigator's Conference [Anaheim], Organized Crime and Narcotic Conference [Beijing], Southeast Asian Organized Crime Conference [Tampa] and California State University [Long Beach].

Through a grant from the Federal Bureau of Justice Administration, RGET designed, worked with selected contractors and deployed what is believed to be the most sophisticated law enforcement surveillance system in the country at a cost of about \$1 million. The deployment of advanced surveillance devices in an operational environment



allows investigators to capture photographic images for use in the prosecution of serious gang cases. Details relating to the system or its use in ongoing investigations are not available for public dissemination.

Other high-tech investigations involving unique, innovative techniques and methods are currently ongoing. They allow investigators to infiltrate groups, obtain evidence through methods that have not been available to law enforcement officers in the past.

In 2001, RGET was received the California Narcotics Officer's Association's coveted Major Narcotics Case of the Year Award. The International Association of Asian Crime Investigators presented their highest award to RGET for outstanding contributions to the investigation of Asian crime. RGET was also recognized by The Orange Korean Institute for Human Rights for their excellent work and effort on the Linda Park murder case.

RGET's goals for 2002 include deployment of one additional team to combat money laundering. Designated PLUG (Prevent Laundering from Underwriting Gangs), this team will work diligently to impact the financial benefit that organized, sophisticated, and mobile gangs receive from their criminal enterprises. This team will work closely with the Federal High Intensity Financial Crime Area task force in identifying and impacting significant organizations. In 2002 the team will begin to employ increasingly more sophisticated electronic equipment in their fight against mobile, organized criminal gang enterprises in Orange County. Additional specialist personnel were added to the team in 2001 to facilitate the implementation of this equipment in 2002.



PART III

THE TRI-AGENCY RESOURCE GANG-ENFORCEMENT TEAM (TARGET)





costa mesa



garden grove



north county



orange



santa ana



South county







Westminste



The TARGET Program - A Brief History

Westminster Police Chief James Cook initiated the TARGET concept in 1992, with the enthusiastic participation of the District Attorney's Office and the Probation Department. After two very successful initial years in Westminster, the Board of Supervisors became interested in expanding the concept countywide.

In 1994, TARGET units were established in six new areas. Each program was modeled after the Westminster TARGET, with some modifications made to accommodate local law enforcement agency structures and local community needs. Between 1994 and 1999 the program expanded from seven to thirteen teams. TARGET currently operates in Anaheim (two teams), Costa Mesa, Garden Grove, Orange, Santa Ana (4 teams), Tustin, Westminster, North County (including the cities of Brea, Buena Park, Fullerton, La Habra, Placentia, and Yorba Linda), and South County (in 10 communities served by the Sheriff's Department).

The basic TARGET process continues to involve the quick identification of the leaders of gangs, concentrating on them (targeting) for enforcement efforts, conducting searches, and making arrests. The highly efficient sharing of information promoted by the TARGET model facilitates this process. Police gang investigators are specially trained to deal with hostile or reluctant witnesses, and deputy district attorneys and district attorney investigators are experienced in vertically prosecuting cases through the court system. The deputy probation officer plays a vital role by enforcing the specialized "gang terms" conditions of probation imposed by the courts.

The strategy of having all team members located together and sharing a high level of expertise in gang crime has led to dramatic results. Some of these results are described in the individual unit sections that follow. The overall impact of the TARGET program is detailed in a summary section (see page 12).

Key Progress Indicators:

- The thirteen TARGET units maintain lists of about 1200 of the most active gang members.
- Gang detectives made 577 arrests of identified gang members.
- Charges were filed against nearly 500 gang members.
- Cases were concluded against 404 gangsters, with probation violations sustained against 130 more.
- There were 184 gang members sent to state institutions in 2001

INDIVIDUAL PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS - Listed Alphabetically

ANAHEIM TARGET



There are two TARGET teams operating in Anaheim, one began in 1994, the other in 1996. These teams concentrated their efforts on an average of 50 active "targets" in 2001. They seized 8 weapons, conducted 387 field interviews, and arrested 26 "targets" during the year. Prosecutors cleared a total of 68 cases, 6 of them through trial. An average of 86% of targets were kept in custody while awaiting trial. Sixty-nine gang members were removed from the streets: 1 was sent to a juvenile facility, 24 were sent to jail, and 44 were sent to prison.

Probation officers were busy with an average of 36 target probationers (and 69 non-targets), making 1,064 probationer contacts, and filing 53 probation violations.

In early 2000, one gang in particular was extremely active in Anaheim, engaging in numerous acts of vandalism and violence. In one incident, a group of seven gang members confronted three members of a rival gang. After a challenge for a fistfight was made, one of the original seven gangsters pulled a gun and shot one of the rivals in the stomach. Then he chased after a second subject and shot him in the back. Both victims lived.

The TARGET Unit was able to identify two of the juvenile gang members who were present at the time of the shooting. They were charged with attempted murder, a firearms offense, and gang crime allegations. These crimes carry a potential life sentence in adult prosecution. At trial the juvenile argued that he was unaware of the gun, did not want anyone to be shot and at most this was a fistfight that escalated to a shooting on the independent action and intent of the shooter. We argued that the shooting was a natural and probable consequence of the original challenge to fight and the juvenile should be held responsible for the attempted murder, with testimony to this effect from an Anaheim PD gang expert. The Court agreed, finding that it did not matter whether the juvenile was even aware of the gun. The juvenile participated in the confrontation because of his agreement to participate in a gang fight. The Court thus found that the juvenile was equally guilty with the shooter of the attempted murder, gun allegation and gang crime allegations, and sentenced him to the California Youth Authority.

Anaheim Unit Activity - 2001			
Average Number of TARGETs	50		
STEP Notifications • (Total)	0		
Search Warrants	0		
Warrant Locations Searched	0		
Firearms Seized	8		
TARGET Arrests	26		
nonTARGET Arrests	108		
_			
TARGET Cases Filed	53		
TARGET Cases Completed	62		
Trials Completed	6		
Percent Kept In Custody	86		
Sentenced - Prison/CYA	44		
Sentenced - Local Institution	25		
Avg. Probation TARGET Caseload	36		
Avg. TARGETs on Gang Terms •	23		
Avg. Probation nonTARGET Caseload	68		
Total Probation Contacts	1064		
Total Probation Violations Filed	53		
See definition at the bottom of this page			

The second juvenile then pled guilty to the attempted murder. Once we successfully completed this trial and demonstrated to these gang members that we could convict them of crimes carrying potential life sentences if they merely agreed to be in a gang fight that resulted in a shooting, the crime activity of this most visible gang dropped to virtually zero. We effectively put the gang out of business. Prior to creation of the Target Unit, we would not have filed these charges, because we could not show that the juvenile directly intended or aided the shooting. Instead, youths were sent to CYA and we virtually stopped gang activity in the neighborhood.

- STEP Notifications: informing persons that they meet the definition of gang members under the STEP Act (see page 3), and that any charges filed against them could include enhancements adding to prison terms.
- Gang Terms: a specific set of terms and conditions of probation designed to curtail gang associations by probationers.

COSTA MESA TARGET



In 2001, an average of 42 active gang members were targeted by the Costa Mesa Team and a total of 95 gangsters were moved to the "inactive" list throughout the year. Gang officers made 28 arrests of targeted and 56 of non-targeted gangsters during the year, while the prosecutor filed 71cases, 54 of which were targets, and the deputy probation officer filed 29 TARGET and 13 non-target probation violations. The prosecutor cleared cases against 66 defendants, removing 43 gangsters from the streets. The deputy probation officer handled an average caseload of 38 "targets," made 561 contacts of probationers, and performed a total of 353 probation searches.

During the year 2001, the Target attorney successfully prosecuted a member of a Costa Mesa-based gang for assaulting a police officer in Santa Ana and obtained a five-year prison commitment. Another juvenile gang member was prosecuted for escaping from a youth camp and was sent to the California Youth Authority, based on his entire criminal record.

In October 2001, the TARGET officers arrested four juvenile gang members between the ages of 14 and 15, for participating in the assault on a juvenile rival gang member after a high school football game. The four suspects had no prior criminal record. The Target attorney filed felony assault, conspiracy to commit assault, and street terrorism charges, along with gang enhancements alleging the crime was for the benefit of a gang, against all four suspects. The minors were all tried in juvenile court and sentenced to a 9-month commitment at Juvenile Hall with probation and gang terms. Any future violations could subject these minors to a maximum of 9 years at the California Youth Authority.

The Target unit also prosecuted a gang member for attempting to rob two victims outside a Costa Mesa liquor store and assaulting the victims with a knife. This defendant was held to answer on all charges including street terrorism and gang enhancement after a preliminary hearing and is currently awaiting trial. The defendant faces a maximum of 18 years in prison.

Costa Mesa Unit Activity - 2001			
Average Number of TARGETs	42		
STEP Notifications • (Total)	12		
Search Warrants	0		
Warrant Locations Searched	0		
Firearms Seized	0		
TARGET Arrests	28		
nonTARGET Arrests	56		
_			
TARGET Cases Filed	54		
TARGET Cases Completed	48		
Trials Completed	1		
Percent Kept In Custody	51		
Sentenced - Prison/CYA	13		
Sentenced - Local Institution	30		
_			
Avg. Probation TARGET Caseload	22		
Avg. TARGETs on Gang Terms •	21		
Avg. Probation nonTARGET Caseload	16		
Total Probation Contacts	61		
Total Probation Violations Filed	42		
 See definition at the bottom of page 	22.		

GARDEN GROVE TARGET



2001 proved to be a very successful year for the Garden Grove TARGET (MAGNET) program. The average number of active "targets" identified by the Garden Grove unit was 21 in 2001. Many of these gang members were surveilled, and 45 locations were searched. Forty-five firearms were taken from gangsters. Other "targets" were contacted on the streets. The deputy probation officer reported a total of 378 "target" and 825 "non-target" contacts. The MAGNET prosecutor filed cases against 23 "targets" and 6 "non-targets." About 90% of gang members were kept in custody during adjudication. Twenty gang members were removed from the streets through commitments to state institutions or local facilities. The probation officer had an average caseload of 11 "targets" and 41 "non-targets," and filed a total of 30 probation violations against the TARGET probationers.

During the course of the seventh year since its inception, the Garden Grove TARGET program continued to concentrate on the most violent criminal street gangs in the city. In particular, the program increased its use of informants to solve violent Asian gang crimes, including a 1997 homicide. The suspects went to the home of the leader of a rival gang in order to kill him. They saw the 19-year-old victim walking home from the store with his mother, and shot and killed him.

The suspects currently face murder charges along with gang and weapon enhancements. These same informants also helped solved a 1997 shooting at a nightclub in Huntington Beach, resulting in two arrests. Those defendants currently face charges for attempted murder, with gang and weapon enhancements.

As the year 2001 progressed, the city saw a rise in home invasion robberies committed by multiple suspects. In June, a homeowner was shot in the neck as four suspects attempted to rob him at his home. A worker who was on scene during the robbery was also pistol-whipped. With the assistance of several local police departments, the TARGET team followed and stopped the suspects in the car. One of the suspects brandished a gun at police and was subsequently shot and killed. A search of the suspect's car revealed four fully loaded guns. A search of the suspects' residence yielded masks, gloves, burglary tools and property stolen from other residences. Similar to the suspects in the 1997 homicide, the defendants came from different gangs, yet they teamed up to commit the robberies. One suspect pled guilty to gun possession, while three other suspects are pending trial on attempted murder and residential robbery charges, along with gang and weapon enhancements.

In October, another residential robbery crew became active both in Garden Grove and Stanton. Once again, an informant helped to identify the suspects. At the direction of the police, the informant conspired with the suspects to commit a mock robbery. En route to that robbery, the suspects were stopped and arrested. A loaded gun was found in the car. During interviews, the suspects admitted to participating in three residential robberies and one residential burglary. One suspect who had fled the state was arrested in Ohio and brought back to

Garden Grove Unit Activity - 2001				
Average Number of TARGETs	21			
STEP Notifications • (Total)	174			
Search Warrants	11			
Warrant Locations Searched	45			
Firearms Seized	45			
TARGET Arrests	34			
nonTARGET Arrests	17			
_				
TARGET Cases Filed	23			
TARGET Cases Completed	23			
Trials Completed	0			
Percent Kept In Custody	90			
Sentenced - Prison/CYA	13			
Sentenced - Local Institution	7			
_				
Avg. Probation TARGET Caseload	11			
Avg. TARGETs on Gang Terms •	10			
Avg. Probation nonTARGET Caseload	41			
Total Probation Contacts	1153			
Total Probation Violations Filed	30			
 See definition at the bottom of page 	e 22.			

Orange County. Again, the suspects teamed up members from two different gangs. All suspects are currently pending trial on multiple robbery charges and weapon enhancements.

Through this increased use of informants, the TARGET team was able to solve four residential robberies and one residential burglary, confiscate five handguns, and arrest seven suspects. This pro-active approach by the team has led to a substantial reduction of violent gang crime and has contributed to a better quality of life for the citizens of Garden Grove.

NORTH COUNTY TARGET



The North Orange County TARGET Task Force became operational in fall 1998, and is composed of personnel from the District Attorney's Office, Probation Department, and the cities of Fullerton, Brea, Buena Park, La Habra, Placentia, and Yorba Linda. Each city makes available investigative staff and materials for the operation of the unit. The Probation Department provides a deputy probation officer, and the District Attorney's Office contributes an experienced trial attorney and an investigator.

During its third year of operation, the North County TARGET unit averaged 138 identified "targets" and served search warrants at 19 locations. Fifty-seven arrests of "targets" were made, plus 111 of "non-targets." The prosecution completed cases against 46 targeted defendants. Thirty-six gang members were removed from the

streets, with nine of those being sent to a state institution. The an average of 39 probationers,

probation officer tracked an average of 39 probationers making over 500 contacts, and filing 43 probation violations.

One prominent case in 2001 involved a gang member who, with his "homies" had begun terrorizing a new family that had moved into the gang's territory in Placentia. They were seen "casing" the family van and asked to leave. The gangster replied that he and his friends could do whatever they wanted, because this was their "turf." When the family member refused to back down, one of the gangsters drew a gun and shot at him, but missed. The gang then ran off, only to return the next evening.

That next evening, the leader of the group started banging on the gate in front of the family's home and yelling "Anyone moving here tonight?" When the daughter of the family came out and told him to leave, the gangster said that if she called the police on him he would slit her throat and burn down her house. The police were called and he was soon arrested. The TARGET DA investigator assisted in securing funds to relocate the family immediately, and then helped to move them out of harm's way. The son and daughter both testified at trial, and their testimony helped to convict this gangster of assault with a deadly weapon and making criminal threats. The gangster has been sentenced to a long term with the California Youth Authority.

North County Unit Activity - 2001	
Average Number of TARGETs	138
STEP Notifications (Total)	93
Search Warrants	10
Warrant Locations Searched	19
Firearms Seized	16
TARGET Arrests	57
nonTARGET Arrests	111
TARGET Cases Filed	53
TARGET Cases Completed	46
Trials Completed	2
Percent Kept In Custody	93
Sentenced - Prison/CYA	9
Sentenced - Local Institution	27
Avg. Probation TARGET Caseload	25
Avg. TARGETs on Gang Terms •	24
Avg. Probation nonTARGET Caseload	14
Total Probation Contacts	504
Total Probation Violations Filed	43
 See definition at the bottom of page 	22.

ORANGE TARGET



Orange Police Department gang unit continued its work this year. The effects were evident. Their efforts in concentrating one particular gang has the gang making the transition from being a criminal street gang to being a "behind bars" gang. The gang was targeted and many of their members are now in prison, in juvenile institutions, or in jail pending trial. The

gang's lack of presence on the street has been noticed not only by police but also by rivals.

An average of 54 active gang members were targeted by the Orange TARGET team during 2001, and another 12 were made inactive during the year. Twenty-eight search warrants were obtained, almost five times as many as last year. Consequently, the number of locations searched quadrupled to 42 in 2001, compared to 10 the previous year. The probation officer was busy with an average of 29 "target" and 14 "non-target" probationers, filing 43 probation violations, and making 775 contacts.

Prosecutors filed 32 cases and completed 33 cases during 2010. About 76% of defendants were kept in custody while awaiting sentencing. There were 39 gang members committed to state institutions or local facilities.

Orange Unit Activity - 2001	
Average Number of TARGETs	54
STEP Notifications • (Total)	1275
Search Warrants	28
Warrant Locations Searched	42
Firearms Seized	24
TARGET Arrests	69
nonTARGET Arrests	260
TARGET Cases Filed	31
TARGET Cases Completed	33
Trials Completed	1
Percent Kept In Custody	76
Sentenced - Prison/CYA	7
Sentenced - Local Institution	32
Avg. Probation TARGET Caseload	29
Avg. TARGETs on Gang Terms •	18
Avg. Probation nonTARGET Caseload	14
Total Probation Contacts	775
Total Probation Violations Filed	43
See definition at the bottom of pag	e 22.

SANTA ANA TARGET



There are four separate TARGET teams in Santa Ana working to identify and prosecute the most active gang members who engage in criminal conduct. Santa Ana's TARGET program operates under the name STOP (Street Terrorist Offender Program). The first STOP team began operating in January 1994. It was joined in August 1994 by a second team. In October 1995, a grant was received to operate another STOP team. This third team was labeled STOP II, with the first two teams relabeled STOP I. In October 1996, STOP III began operation, adding a fourth team to the streets of Santa Ana. Since 1997, four teams have been in full operation and are now labeled STOP I through IV.

The four STOP teams identified an average of 667 "targets" in 2001, an increase from 2000. There were a total of 283 STEP notifications in 2001, as well as 27 search warrants served on 91 locations. Forty-three firearms were seized. There

were 195 "target" arrests during 2000. An additional 218 arrests of "non-targets" were made. Prosecutors filed cases against 194 gang members and completed old and new cases against 190 defendants. A total of 26 defendants were brought to trial in 2001. Eighty-one gang members received commitments to state institutions, while another 96 were committed to local institutions. Probation officers made over 2,400 contacts, performed 503 searches, and filed probation violations against 129 gang members.

The STOP I Team.

The Stop I Team continues to focus on prosecuting members of the largest gang in Santa Ana. There were over 50 cases filed, and the unit was successful in obtaining 30 convictions this past year, many of whom were members of this gang. The remaining 20 plus cases are pending. The crimes prosecuted included shootings, auto theft, narcotics and gang graffiti cases. Graffiti violations are now being prosecuted as felonies when they are done to promote gang activity. Two jury trials were completed this year, both of which resulted in guilty verdicts.

Additionally, the unit has several cases pending against several members of another active street gang. These cases include drive-by shootings, weapons violations and auto theft. As a result of the units' focus on this gang, very few of the active members remain out of custody. Three of the pending cases against gang members are attempted murders where the defendants are facing life in prison.

The STOP II Team

Over the last year, the STOP II team continued to work its gang enforcement in a number of ways. As this unit covers a number of the larger gangs in Santa Ana, the Target list on these gangs is expansive. Because of the historical methods of operation of these gangs, we have focused on their crimes of choice in constructing our Target lists. For example, car thieves are targeted in one gang because of the way this gang has traditionally used stolen cars in their drive-by shootings. Another gang has used drug sales to finance their activities, so we focus on their dealers. Additionally, we focus on all weapons cases, as well as on gang members who have



committed crimes of violence. Lastly, we have continued to review and prosecute cold cases from the early 1990's that are being re-investigated.

In the last year we have prosecuted approximately 50 new gang cases. We have done six jury trials, including two homicide trials. All have resulted in convictions. One of the two murder trials was a cold case that was put together by the use of a jailhouse informant. Though the victim in that case was a violent gang member who died firing two

shots at the defendant, the jury convicted his killer of murder and conspiracy to commit murder. In the second murder trial, the Santa Ana Police assisted a DA investigator in tracking down and finding a third person involved in the killing. This person was used as a witness against the other two defendants, one of whom was the instigator and the other the actual shooter. The case resulted in murder convictions on both defendants.

The STOP III Team

The STOP III team was also very involved in reducing gang crime in Santa Ana. The number of arrests led to many successful prosecutions and the removal of some violent gangsters from the streets of Santa Ana.

The STOP IV Team

In 2001, the STOP 4 Team successfully prosecuted its final case in a series of related murder and attempted murder shootings committed by a violent tag-banger gang. (A tagbanger gang is one that has moved from graffiti "tagging" to serious criminal activity.) In this final case, a jury convicted a hardcore leader of this gang of five attempted murders and gang-related violations. He was sentenced to 119 years to life in prison. Now, a total of six members of this gang are serving life prison sentences as result of successful prosecutions by the STOP 4 team. Since 1998, when 12 of the most active members of this tag-banger gang were jailed for various offenses, there have been no reported violent crime incidents perpetrated by this gang in Santa Ana for 44 months straight.

Another STOP 4 team highlight this year was the successful attempted murder prosecution of a TARGET from a traditional territorial street gang. A jury convicted the Target got nearly murdering a 23-year-old male and 14-year-old female during a drive-by shooting, and this Target is now serving a 40 years to life prison sentence.

Santa Ana Units Activity - 2001			
Average Number of TARGETs	666		
STEP Notifications • (Total)	283		
Search Warrants	27		
Warrant Locations Searched	91		
Firearms Seized	43		
TARGET Arrests	195		
nonTARGET Arrests	218		
TARGET Cases Filed	181		
TARGET Cases Completed	171		
Trials Completed	14		
Percent Kept In Custody	76		
Sentenced - Prison/CYA	81		
Sentenced - Local Institution	96		
Avg. Probation TARGET Caseload	90		
Avg. TARGETs on Gang Terms •	31		
Avg. Probation nonTARGET Caseload	106		
Total Probation Contacts	2439		
Total Probation Violations Filed	129		
See definition at the bottom of page 22.			

SOUTH COUNTY TARGET



The South County TARGET program operates in conjunction with the Sheriff's Department and covers 11 South County communities: Laguna Hills, Aliso Viejo, Mission Viejo, Laguna Niguel, Rancho Santa Margarita, Lake Forest, Laguna Woods, San Clemente, San Juan Capistrano, Capistrano Beach, Dana Point, and unincorporated county areas.

During 2001, an average of 50 targeted gang members were identified, a 50% increase from 2000. Twenty-one locations were searched, and 97 "targets" were arrested. Cases were completed against 42 targeted defendants. Most targeted gang members that have active criminal cases remained incarcerated during 2001, and 3 of the convictions have resulted in state prison commitments. Commitments to local facilities removed an additional 79 gang members from the streets. The deputy probation officers handled an average of 25 "target" and 58 "non-target" probationers. They made over 1,160 contacts

and filed 97 probation violations.

The TARGET Unit not only continues to utilize directed enforcement efforts towards traditional gangs, but has also placed greater emphasis in successfully investigating and prosecuting members of rapidly growing non-territorial suburbia gangs. The Team also continued targeting bully/intimidation gangs whose youth members prey on fellow

students. The TARGET team has complemented these efforts by taking a proactive approach in working with school officials and Sheriff Resource Deputies on school campuses in order to obtain valuable gang intelligence. Some of the accomplishments this year have been as follows:

In April, several rivals assaulted a gang member at a restaurant in San Juan Capistrano. This assault led to a retaliation attack on a non-gang 17-year-old male. Fearing for his life, the victim fled on foot. The suspects chased him down and began assaulting him. The victim might have been severely injured or killed in the attack if a passer-by in a vehicle had not sounded his horn at the suspects, causing them to flee. The Team investigated the case, and four individuals were subsequently arrested. The two attackers are in custody, being tried as adults, and are charged with attempted homicide.

Other solved cases involved weapons sales, theft of a law enforcement officer's car, and the marring of the El Toro Park with graffiti. Cooperative investigations led to the apprehension and prosecution of suspects for all these crimes

In another notable case, a gang member was sentenced to $8\frac{1}{2}$ years for an August 2000 assault. This case involved an incident of mistaken identity, where two young men had their car blocked in by numerous vehicles driven by local gang members. The driver was dragged out of his vehicle and beaten. The gas station surveillance camera captured a portion of the assault. Ten gang members were taken into custody. All the defendants went to jail or prison.

South County Unit Activity - 20	001
Average Number of TARGETs	50
STEP Notifications • (Total)	207
Search Warrants	11
Warrant Locations Searched	21
Firearms Seized	36
TARGET Arrests	97
nonTARGET Arrests	693
TARGET Cases Filed	39
TARGET Cases Completed	42
Trials Completed	1
Percent Kept In Custody	48
Sentenced - Prison/CYA	3
Sentenced - Local Institution	79
Avg. Probation TARGET Caseload	25
Avg. TARGETs on Gang Terms •	21
Avg. Prob. nonTARGET Caseload	58
Total Probation Contacts	1167
Total Probation Violations Filed	97
 See definition at the bottom of pa 	ge 22.

These and other successful arrests and prosecutions of serious and violent gang members demonstrate the effectiveness of the TARGET concept. The dedication, hard work and efficiency of the South County TARGET team is reflected in the removal of many violent gang members from the community, as well as persuading others from joining a gang in the first place. When combined with pro-active probation searches and other team activities, it is evident that the TARGET concept is making South Orange County a safer place to live.

TUSTIN TARGET



This past year was the first full year that Tustin has had a TARGET Unit. Tustin's team formed quickly and displayed skill in developing their intelligence of Tustin gang members, both in interviewing targets and in controlling informants. The team worked hard to comprise a TARGET list and to develop information on the individuals selected. The intelligence gathering by the Team led to numerous successful probation searches in which guns were found and removed from the homes of targeted gang members. A large number of TARGET arrests were made and every gang-related crime occurring in 2001 was solved.

An average of 47 targeted gang members were identified and active in 2001. With 8 search warrants during the year, 10 locations were searched, 9

firearms were seized, and 37 targets were arrested. Another 120 arrests were made of non-targets. A total of 335 field interviews were conducted throughout the year, and about 13 targets were kept in custody each month on average.

During 2001, the part-time deputy probation officers handled an average caseload of 20 target and 3 non-target probationers. They conducted a total of 69 searches, made 328 contacts, and filed 21 probation violations during the year. Twenty-one new cases were filed, and 19 were completed against targeted defendants by the part-time prosecutor. An average of 73% of targeted gang members that have active criminal cases remained incarcerated during 2001. One adult trial and one juvenile trial were completed, both with guilty verdicts. An additional 22 guilty pleas were obtained. Six convictions resulted in state prison or CYA commitments. Commitments to local facilities removed an additional 27 gang members from the streets.

<u>Tustin Unit Activity - 2001</u>			
Average Number of TARGETs	47		
STEP Notifications • (Total)	43		
Search Warrants	8		
Warrant Locations Searched	10		
Firearms Seized	9		
TARGET Arrests	37		
nonTARGET Arrests	120		
TARRET Occur Filed	04		
TARGET Cases Filed	21		
TARGET Cases Completed	19		
Trials Completed	2		
Percent Kept In Custody	73		
Sentenced - Prison/CYA	6		
Sentenced - Local Institution	27		
_			
Avg. Probation TARGET Caseload	20		
Avg. TARGETs on Gang Terms •	15		
Avg. Probation nonTARGET Caseload	3		
Total Probation Contacts	338		
Total Probation Violations Filed	21		
 See definition at the bottom of page 	e 22.		

WESTMINSTER TARGET



The year 2001 was a very productive year for the Westminster TARGET program. Our goal at the beginning of the year was to implement a more proactive style of policing. The success of this implementation resulted in a caseload that almost tripled.

By the end of the year 2001, the Westminster TARGET unit had slightly more "targets" identified than in 2000, and had slightly increased both the number of STEP notifications made, and search warrants issued. There were 21 arrant locations searched, compared to 24 over the previous year. The TARGET prosecutors completed cases against 17 defendants, and kept 95% of all defendants in custody during the trial process, both higher figures than in 2000. Twice as many gang members (24) as last year were sentenced to state or local institutions. The probation officers reported making 738 contacts, and filed 28 probation violations, compared to just 13 in 2000.

In March, one of the more active street gangs in Westminster became engaged in an assault at the Westminster Mall, when rivals attacked two gang members with box cutters. The assailants cut two individuals from ear to ear across the

face causing permanent scarring and mutilation. The next day, nine members of the first gang met, agreed to retaliate against their rivals, and went hunting for them. After driving to numerous cafés throughout the city, they finally located them in a parking lot. Numerous gang members exited their cars with "clubs" (anti-theft devices), and began to confront the rivals. As a result, a rival gang member shot and killed one attacker and wounded a second. All nine gang members were ultimately arrested and charged with provocative acts, and the murder of one of their own. All pleaded guilty to conspiracy and gang crimes.

In June, four members from different gangs committed a violent home invasion robbery. Six victims were tortured and sexually assaulted. The defendants cut off the bottom of one victim's ear with tin snips because they did not believe him when he stated that they did not have any money. They also cut another victim's finger down to the bone. Three out of the four persons responsible are in custody and awaiting trial. The fourth individual was just identified on a Department of Justice DNA hit and a warrant will be issued for his arrest. These individuals were involved in a number of home invasion robberies throughout this county and other counties. One of them was caught in the act of a home invasion robbery in Murrieta and engaged in a gun battle with the police.

In addition to gang suppression, the Westminster TARGET unit has given presentations on Asian gangs at numerous seminars. In September, a presentation was given at the Asian Gang Investigators Association of California. Approximately 300

Westminster Unit Activity - 2001						
Average Number of TARGETs	56					
STEP Notifications • (Total)	84					
Search Warrants	11					
Warrant Locations Searched	21					
Firearms Seized	27					
TARGET Arrests	34					
nonTARGET Arrests	157					
TARGET Cases Filed	38					
TARGET Cases Completed	17					
Trials Completed	2					
Percent Kept In Custody	95					
Sentenced - Prison/CYA	7					
Sentenced - Local Institution	17					
Avg. Probation TARGET Caseload	16					
Avg. TARGETs on Gang Terms •	13					
Avg. Probation nonTARGET Caseload	23					
Total Probation Contacts	738					
Total Probation Violations Filed 28						
 See definition at the bottom of page 22. 						

investigators from throughout the state attended this seminar. In November, the Unit made an instructional presentation at the California Department of Corrections annual meeting that was attended by approximately 100 individuals. In late November, we flew to Wichita, Kansas to address the Midwest Criminal Justice Institute of Midwest Gang Investigators. This event was co-sponsored by the Department of Alcohol Tobacco and Firearms and Wichita State University. There were approximately 200 gang investigators from throughout the Midwest in attendance.

CUMULATIVE SUMMARY OF TARGET PROGRAM ACHIEVEMENTS

Between the beginning of 1995 and the end of 1997, the number of TARGET units increased from 7 to 11. The 11 TARGET units were in place until September 1998, when a twelfth unit was added in North County. Lower caseloads in existing TARGET jurisdictions allowed for the reallocation of resources to cities that had desired a TARGET team. In the latter part of 2000, a part-time unit was added in the city of Tustin. Some of the statistical changes described below are due to the expansion of teams. Some of the changes are due to revisions in reporting procedures. Year-to-year comparisons must be viewed with caution.

The number of targeted gang members increased in 2001 as several Teams reviewed their lists of targeted gang members and added to them. As the year went on, new members replaced those moved to "inactive" lists. The total number of identified, active gang members has risen from 719 at the end of 1997 to 1,082 at the end of 2000. By the end of 2001 there were 1,242 targeted gang members. This is a 15% increase over the end of 2000 and about 73% above 1997.

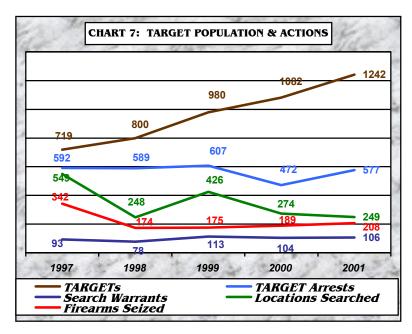
TABLE 5 TARGET Populations and Actions 1997 – 2001								
	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	% Change 2000-2001	% Change 1997-2001	
TARGET Population Beginning of Year Additions Number Made Inactive End of Year Count	570	696	922	898	1214	35.2%	113.0%	
	261	617	365	425	321	-24.5%	23.0%	
	102	513	307	241	293	21.6%	187.3%	
	719	800	980	1082	1242	14.8%	72.7%	
TARGET Arrests Felonies Misdemeanors Major Arrest Types Assault Narcotics-Possess/Sell Weapons Probation Violation	408	333	355	319	451	41.4%	10.5%	
	184	256	252	153	126	-17.6%	-31.5%	
	54	32	47	60	71	18.3%	31.5%	
	61	26	82	61	54	-11.5%	-11.5%	
	57	40	100	53	78	47.2%	36.8%	
	231	353	342	199	237	19.1%	2.6%	
NonTARGET Arrests * Felonies Misdemeanors STEP Notifications	1232	1348	1315	928	999	7.7%	-18.9%	
	1626	2148	1486	810	646	-20.2%	-60.3%	
	1192	976	986	965	1171	21.3%	-1.8%	
Search Warrants	93	78	113	104	106	1.9%	14.0%	
Locations	549	248	426	274	249	-9.1%	-54.6%	
Firearms Seized	342	174	175	189	208	10.1%	-39.2%	

st NonTARGET Arrests are of gang members who are arrested with a targeted gang member.

The number of arrests of targeted gang members in 2001 increased overall due to a large increase in felony arrests, partially offset by a drop in misdemeanor arrests. There were 10% fewer felony arrests and 39% fewer misdemeanor arrests in 2000 than in 1999. Arrests of non-targeted gang members (usually those accompanying arrested "targets") followed the same pattern, however the increase in felony arrests was small and the decrease in misdemeanor arrests more substantial. The increase in arrests of "targets" suggests that activity among the more active gang members may be increasing.

The most frequent arrest offenses were once again assault, narcotics possession or sales, weapon offenses and probation violations. Both assault and weapon offenses increased. The increase in assaults was the four consecutive increase, while the number of arrests on weapons charges was the second highest in recent years (see table 5, above). The number of search warrants was essentially the same as in 2000, while the number of locations searched decreased. TARGET teams removed 208 more firearms from the streets of Orange County in 2001, bringing the number of firearms removed in the past five years to 1,088.

TARGET deputy district attorneys again concentrated on filing cases against targeted gang members, and non-targeted co-defendants in cases involving targeted gang members. Filings of criminal charges against targeted



gang members by TARGET deputy district attorneys in 2001 totaled 493, another decrease from the previous year. The number of filings against non-targeted co-defendants and the number of pending cases at the end of 2001 was the same as for 2000.

Table 6 TARGET Filings and Dispositions 1997-2001								
						% Change	% Change	
	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2000-2001	1997-2001	
TARGET Filings nonTARGET Filings ⁽¹⁾	777	746	661	534	493	-7.7%	-36.6%	
Average Pending Cases	63 236	72 247	90 241	91 237	91 237	0.0% 0.0%	44.4% 0.4%	
Percent In Custody	88.8%	90.8%	78.3%	71.9%	76.8%	0.0%	0.4%	
Adult Trials (2)	44	36	52	22	23	4.5%	-47.7%	
Percent Convictions	93.2%	88.9%	86.5%	81.8%	86.9%	1.070	,0	
Juvenile Trials (2)	29	56	36	24	6	-75.0%	-79.3%	
Percent Convictions	72.4%	73.2%	100.0%	66.7%	100.0%			
Pleas	512	558	480	476	375	-21.2%	-26.8%	
Probation Violations Sustained	155	134	134	99	130	31.3%	-16.1%	
Prison Commitments	208	195	179	148	166	12.2%	-20.2%	
CYA Commitments	48	55	32	29	17	-41.4%	-64.6%	
Jail Commitments	213	180	201	182	187	2.7%	-12.2%	
Commitments to Juvenile Facility	186	234	234	180	153	-15.0%	-17.7%	

- (1) Filings by TARGET DDAs against gang members arrested with targeted individuals, usually co-defendants.
- (2) Adult and Juvenile Trials are reported by defendant, rather than by case.

Deputies in TARGET Units conducted 23 adult trials, one more than in 2000, but the number of pleas obtained dropped over 20%, to 375. There was a considerable rise in the number of probation violations that were sustained. The 130 sustained violations in 2001 was a 31% increase over 2000, returning to the levels of 1998 and 1999.

One hundred eighty-three targeted defendants were sentenced to state institutions during 2001, a slight increase over 2000. There was a decrease in commitments to CYA for juvenile offenders, but a 12% increase in state prison commitments for adult offenders. Likewise, the number of juveniles sentenced to local commitments decreased, while the number of jail commitments increased slightly. This suggests that adults are becoming more active, perhaps signaling the return of previous gang members from earlier commitments as has been anecdotally noted.

The TARGET probation officers cumulatively supervised a caseload of approximately 279 targeted gang members during 2001. This was an increase over 2000 and the second highest level reported in recent years. The percentage of targeted probationers on formal gang terms of probation dropped to 81%. The TARGET probation officers also supervised approximately 281 non-targeted gang members, making the total probation caseload the highest ever.

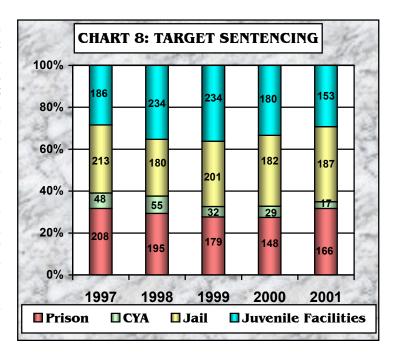
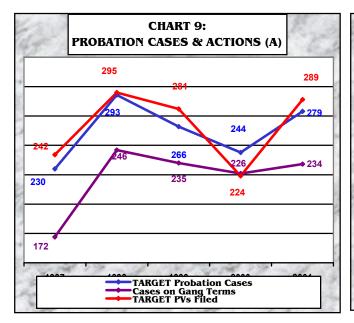
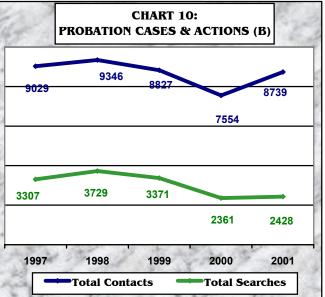


Table 7 TARGET Probation Caseload and Actions 1997-2001								
	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	% Change 2000-2001	% Change 1997-2001	
TARGET Cases (1)	230	293	266	244	279	14.3%	21.3%	
% on Gang Terms	74.8%	84.0%	88.3%	88.1%	81.4%			
NonTARGET Cases	219	220	178	201	281	39.8%	28.3%	
% on Gang Terms	74.4%	77.7%	83.7%	67.7%	65.5%			
Contacts:								
TARGETs	3,962	4,797	4,817	3,890	4,256	9.4%	7.4%	
NonTARGETs	5,067	4,549	4,010	3,664	4,483	22.4%	-11.5%	
Searches:								
TARGETs	1,606	2,102	1,919	1,406	1,253	-10.9%	-22.0%	
NonTARGETs	1,701	1,627	1,452	955	1,175	23.0%	-30.9%	
Probation Violations Filed:								
TARGETs	246	295	281	224	289	29.0%	17.5%	
NonTARGETs	272	295	218	147	197	34.0%	-27.6%	

NOTE: Caseloads are the total number of active cases reported in December of each year.

These higher caseloads led to higher numbers of contacts, over 4,250 of "targets" and nearly 4,500 of "non-targets." While the total number of contacts increased moderately, the average number of contacts per probationer over the course of the year was 15.6, slightly lower than in 2000. An increase in searches of "non-targets" is related to a decrease in searches of targeted probationers. The total number of searches increased between 2000 and 2001.





As the chart above shows, the total number of probation violations filed against targets in 2001 rose considerably from 2000, returning to the levels of 1998 and 1999. There was also a substantial in crease in filings against non-targets (34%), after a considerable drop between 1999 and 2000.

CONCLUSION

While gang-involved crime still remains a very real problem facing the residents of Orange County, the District Attorney's Office, in collaboration with local police agencies, the Sheriff's Department, and the Probation Department has expended significant time and energy in meeting the challenge. The Board of Supervisors and the residents have warmly supported these efforts. Their support is greatly appreciated and has greatly encouraged those directly involved in these efforts. The TARGET units and the RGET program continue to demonstrate that this extra devotion of resources pays large dividends. In TARGET, agencies strive to create a comprehensive, collaborative effort which features close communication and cooperation in specific communities. The RGET provides an effective, rapid, collaborative response to highly mobile and lethal gangs.

The statistics reported here indicate that this devotion of resources has had a significant impact in reducing gang crime, particularly violent crime. They also indicate that the continued dedication of these resources and the further development of new concepts are needed, both to consolidate the gains already achieved and to combat a problem that still is far too large and significant to allow a relaxation of effort. The narratives of specific cases reinforce both the significance of removing these predators from our streets and the need for continued vigilance.

Finally, there is a need to acknowledge that the effectiveness of this anti-gang effort is due in large measure to the high level of professionalism and expertise of all the personnel involved in the DA Gang Unit, the TARGET program, the Regional Gang Enforcement Team, and by all the dedicated personnel of the law enforcement agencies, probation, victim-witness, and the courts who are involved in these efforts. The vision of agency heads, the cooperation between agencies fostered by supervisors and managers, and the energy and dedication of the professionals directly working on anti-gang teams has led to the removal many vicious criminals from the streets of Orange County. Many residents of Orange County owe their ability to walk these streets and play in local parks in safety to the devotion and caring of these many individuals.

MISSION STATEMENT OF THE TRI-AGENCY RESOURCE GANG ENFORCEMENT TEAM (TARGET) PROGRAM

- 1) To promote maximum communication and coordination among the agencies involved in gang suppression activities: Law Enforcement, the District Attorney's Office, and the Probation Department.
- 2) To identify and target violent gangs and those gang leaders with the most frequent and violent criminal behavior.
- 3) To remove the most dangerous gangs and gang members from our community by:
 - A. Implementing proactive investigation and prosecution techniques for targeted gang members.
 - B. Vertical investigation and prosecution of gang violence by targeted gang members.
 - C. Maximum appropriate sentencing for criminal convictions, including parole or probation violations by targeted gang members.
- 4) To expand the TARGET Teams to other areas of high gang activity to further reduce gang crime.
- 5) To assist the expansion of the TARGET concept to the vigorous investigation and prosecution of home invasion/take-over robberies and gun trafficking, with a concentration on non-traditional gangs whose criminal activities are not confined to geographic locations by:
 - A. Working with the newly established Regional Gang Enforcement Team to target these non-territorial gangs and gang members.
 - B. To promote the Regional Gang Enforcement Team to affected police departments, getting their involvement with the Team.
- 7) To endeavor to dissuade youth from gang membership, thus reducing gang violence and victimization, by:
 - A. Gang prevention programs.
 - B. Parenting education.
 - C. Increasing public awareness of gang issues.

MISSION STATEMENT OF THE REGIONAL GANG ENFORCEMENT TEAM (RGET) OF THE ORANGE COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

- 1) To impact the worst of the gang problems.
- 2) To reduce both violent and non-violent crimes committed by gangs and gang members that claim financial, rather than physical territory by:
 - A. Conducting surveillance, serving search and arrest warrants, developing and maintaining informants, and engaging in traditional and non-traditional investigative techniques.
 - B. To share information regarding ongoing investigations with numerous local agencies as well as state and federal agencies.
 - C. To coordinate and assist in ongoing investigations of outside agencies involving matters of mutual concern.
- 3) To promote inter-agency cooperation against these non-traditional gangs by:
 - A. Getting the participation of the local police agencies most affected by this problem.
 - B. Establishing working relationships with agents and prosecutors of federal agencies to enhance our ability to fully prosecute these crimes.
- 4) To operate on a countywide basis, quickly shifting resources as needs arise.
- 5) To maximize the removal of the most dangerous gang members from our community by:
 - A. Comprehensive, coordinated investigations and vertical prosecutions of violent gang members.
 - B. Maximum appropriate sentencing for criminal convictions, including parole and probation violations.

MISSION STATEMENT OF THE GANG UNIT OF THE ORANGE COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

- 1) To remove the most dangerous gangs and gang members from our community by:
 - A. Vertical investigation and prosecution of gang violence by gang members.
 - B. Maximum appropriate sentencing for criminal convictions, including parole or probation violations by gang members.
- 2) To organize the Gang Unit of the Orange County District Attorney's Office to maximize the efficiency of gang investigators and prosecutors by:
 - A. Dividing the County geographically and assigning Deputy District Attorneys and District Attorney Investigators to specific cities in order to establish relationships with the police investigators within their assigned city/cities.
 - B. Using these relationships to develop knowledge and expertise among the prosecutors and investigators regarding the specific gangs functioning within their assigned city/cities.
 - C. Combining the knowledge and expertise gained about specific gangs with a vertical prosecution strategy to ensure the highest level of successful prosecution and the maximum sentencing possible.
- 3) To provide back-up availability to the TARGET Teams by making Deputy District Attorneys and District Attorney Investigators available for filing and prosecuting those non-targeted gang members arising as defendants from TARGET Team arrests.
- 4) To establish a true vertical Gang Unit by pairing one Deputy District Attorney and one District Attorney Investigator to create a strong and effective prosecutorial team.
- 5) To provide sufficient paralegal and clerical support for our Gang Unit prosecutors.
- 6) To facilitate the collaborative efforts between the Office of the District Attorney, the Orange County Department of Education, and city, county and state law enforcement agencies in order to reduce gang violence on Orange County school campuses.